



*"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2)*

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## THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT: MEEKNESS

(A MOUSE ON THE DOORMAT?)

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. (Gal. 5:22-23)*

Meekness is the eighth quality in the list of the fruits of the spirit. This is another quality in the grouping of those that are about our relationship with ourselves.

For me at least, the first animal that comes to mind when I think of the word meek is a mouse. Small and brown, with beady, black eyes – mice are not exactly intimidating. It's as if

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we put the words meek and meager together in our minds.

J. Upton Dickson was a fun-loving fellow who wrote a book entitled Cower Power. He also founded a group of submissive people. It was called DOORMATS. That stands for “Dependent Organization of Really Meek And Timid Souls — if there are no objections.” Their motto was: “The meek shall inherit the earth — if that’s okay with everybody.” Their symbol was the yellow traffic light. This is how many people view meekness.

Growing up I used to hear my dad say that meekness is not weakness. Defining meekness, we find several different qualities: being able to calm another’s anger, having power but choosing how to use it, and being in the middle of a controversy but not losing your temper. Meekness is strength under control. Think of a horse that is trained to obey its rider. Think of a Doberman Pincher, a fierce animal, but a joy to its owner. Meekness does not imply that a person never gets angry, but it does mean that a person will err on the side of forgiveness and having patience rather than responding immediately with anger.

With these thoughts in mind, consider these examples of Christ’s meekness:

*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Mat. 11:28-30)*

*And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee? And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly. (Mat. 27:12-14)*

*But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye nei-*

*ther go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. (Mat. 23:13)*

*And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise. And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up. (John 2:14-17)*

These passages show the strength of Jesus in some situations and how he controlled himself at other times.

Are there specific passages that speak to us directly about meekness? Absolutely.

*Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. (Jas. 1:21)*

*Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. (Gal. 6:1)*

*And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; (2 Tim. 2:24-25)*

*Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and*

*easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace. (Jas. 3:13-18)*

*I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; (Eph. 4:1-2)*

Remember, this grouping of the fruits of the spirit is about how we relate to ourselves. Meekness is not thinking too much of our own strength, but not thinking too little of what God can do. When we have the right attitude and perspective of who we are as we stand before God, then we know that while we are nothing at all on our own, we rely on His infinite strength and reach! A.W. Tozer wrote, “The meek man is not a human mouse afflicted with a sense of his own inferiority. Rather he may be in his moral life as bold as a lion and as strong as Samson; but he has stopped being fooled about himself. He has accepted God’s estimate of his own life. He knows he is as weak and helpless as God declared him to be, but paradoxically, he knows at the same time that he is in the sight of God of more importance than angels. In himself, nothing; in God, everything. That is his motto.”

CHAD PRINCE  
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## REDEEM YOUR TIME

I encourage you to use this moment to analyze how you spend your time. Sure, there is time for sleeping and eating. There will be time you spend working, whether that is working for pay or just working to accomplish things that need to be done. But these surely do not account for all of your time. Much of the rest of your time might be labeled as non-productive time – not spent working, eating and sleeping. What do you do with that time? Are you idle? Do you

spend much time in pleasure or entertainment? Do you spend time visiting or talking with other people? Just what do you do?

God does not expect mankind to work all the time. God made the Sabbath for man (Mark 2:27).

*Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, (Exo. 20:9-10a)*

While the Sabbath is not directly commanded to Christians today, I believe that the principle of the Sabbath still exists today; you need to take some time away from work to refresh yourself so that you can go back to work again. You can waste your non-work time or you can be wise in how you spend it.

*See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. (Eph. 5:15-17)*

Do you take time to pray? Do you take time to plan? Do you ask for leading and guidance from your Father in heaven? Do you take time to read and meditate on God's word? Do you serve other people? Do you do things to improve yourself and your abilities, to prepare yourself for upcoming challenges? To redeem the time implies buying up those moments that others seem to throw away. The days are evil, so be wise in how you use your time.

You need to be especially wise in how you use your time relative to non-Christians or people who question your faith and practice.

*Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man. (Col. 4:5-6)*

When you speak to others, you want to respond with grace and not with anger, with wisdom and not with ignorance.

*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*  
(1 Pet. 3:15)

Part of being wise in how you respond to others is preparing yourself. If someone asks you why you believe in the creation of God and not evolution, are you prepared to give an answer? If someone else asks you why you believe or stand on certain truths of the Bible, are you prepared to explain the reason why? Are you ready and prepared? Use your time to get ready. The apostle Paul instructed Timothy to be ready in his work.

*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*  
(2 Tim. 4:2)

Another part of being wise in how you use your time is seizing opportunities that come your way. Many times in my life I have missed opportunities to do good because I was not mentally, spiritually, or physically prepared to see and respond to the need; when I got ready and went back, the opportunity was gone.

*And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.* (Gal. 6:9-10)

*Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,*  
(Tit. 3:1)

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, address changes and all correspondence to:

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The Philippians did not help the apostle Paul for a time, but when the opportunity came to help, they were ready.

*But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. (Php. 4:10)*

Use your time to prepare yourself for opportunities.

My encouragement to you is that you redeem your time. Be wise in how you use your time. Prepare yourself for opportunities when they come.

ED ANDERSON  
(Sierra Vista, AZ)

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## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What did God tell the people not to eat after the flood?
2. With what object did Jael kill Sisera?
3. Who sat down under a tree and asked the Lord to take away his life?
4. Many of the chief rulers privately believed in Jesus. Why did they not confess this belief publicly?
5. In Revelation, how many people from each tribe were “sealed”?

...and remember last month’s questions?

1. How did Korah and his family die after seeking priesthood duties beyond those they already had? **THEY WERE SWALLOWED UP BY THE EARTH** (Numbers 16:1-35)
2. How did Uriah, Bathsheba’s husband, die? **DAVID INSTRUCTED HIS MEN TO ABANDON URIAH IN THE HOTTEST BATTLE** (2 Samuel 11:15-17)
3. Who refused to worship Nebuchadnezzar’s golden image? **SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABEDNEGO** (Daniel 3:12)
4. What profession did Zebedee, father of James and John, have? **FISHERMAN** (Matthew 4:21)
5. In Revelation, what was the wife of the Lamb arrayed in? **FINE WHITE LINEN** (Revelation 19:8)

## GOSPEL MEETINGS

<b>DATES</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>
June 2 - 4	Hopkinsville Hopkinsville, OH	J.D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
June 4 - 9	Taylor's Cross Roads Roanoke, AL	Donald Thompson & Tim Eldridge
June 8 - 11	Ashlock Near Celina, TN	Hunter Bulger (Prattville, AL)
June 9 - 11	New Bethel Cullman, AL	Joe Hill & Timothy Lewis
June 11	Bangor Hayden, AL	Joe Hill (Hagerhill, KY)
June 11 - 16	Mount Carmel Woodland, AL	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
June 12 - 16	Freefield Stateline, MS	Joe Hill & Timothy Lewis
June 18 - 23	Ephesus Ephesus, GA	J.D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
June 23 - 25	Estesburg Eubank, KY	Joe Hill (Hagerhill, KY)
June 29 - 30	Fellowship Conference Oxford Civic Center Oxford, AL	Various Speakers
June 30 - July 2	Antioch Douglasville, GA	Ron Scott (Bloomington, IN)
June 30 - July 2	Willow Oaks Russell Springs, KY	J.D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)